

Pro-Syrian group wins Syrian polls

Syria's Socialist-led ruling coalition won the maximum of 150 seats it was allowed in general elections this week, Interior Minister Mohammed Harba said Sunday. He told a news conference that 1,000 candidates fielded by the National Progressive Front were elected to 150 seats in the 250-seat parliament. The other 84 seats were reserved for independent candidates. Total 3,776 candidates registered in the election, campaigning for which took place freely in 26 years. Harba said a total of 3,265 million people voted out of 6,576 million registered voters, representing 49.62 per cent. The turnout was 50.77 per cent when the number of Syrian expatriates and those in the security forces was taken into account. Syria's 12,000 troops and police are not allowed to vote. Harba said the Baath Party won 134 seats. Seats for its coalition partners were: Communist Party eight, Socialist Union eight, Socialist Unionist seven, Arab Socialist five and Arab Socialist Democratic Party four. The new parliament includes 21 women. It must hold its first session within 15 days.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Palestinian mission on hunger strike

KHARTOUM (AP) — Members of the Palestinian community, including the diplomatic mission here, began a hunger and sit-in strike Sunday to show solidarity with compatriots in Arab Jerusalem. Palestinian leaders in Arab Jerusalem entered the eighth day of a hunger strike Sunday to protest the May 20 massacre of eight Arab labourers near Tel Aviv by an Israeli gunman. Abu Rajaei, the Palestinian ambassador in Khartoum, said the strike was intended to demonstrate to the Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories that they were not alone in their ordeal. The ambassador, who is known by his nom de guerre, said the strike was also aimed at protesting Israel's "increased brutal suppression of Palestinians." The ambassador did not say how many were taking part in the strike.

Rafsanjani attacks West over hostages

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani attacked the West Sunday for doing nothing to help trace three Iranians missing in Lebanon, or press Israel to free hundreds of Arab prisoners. Rafsanjani said the West should have stepped up efforts to determine the fate of the Iranians and free the Arab prisoners following the release of two "American" hostages last month. Iran played a key part in freeing Robert Pofahl and Frank Reed, held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Another 15 Westerners are still in captivity. "Arrogance (the West) should now return itself and tell the world why it is... making no effort to secure the release of the Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian (prisoners)," Rafsanjani told a group of visiting Lebanese in remarks broadcast by Tehran Radio.

Labour lead over Tories slips

LONDON (R) — The opposition Labor Party's opinion poll lead over Britain's ruling Conservatives has fallen in the last month, newspaper reports said. A Monday newspaper in early editions of the Sunday Times' newspaper gave Labour 48 per cent of public support, six points lower than a month ago, and the Conservatives 35 per cent, four points higher. A separate Harris survey in the Observer newspaper showed Labour slipping four points and put the gap between the two parties at 18 per cent. The popularity of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party slumped this year largely as a result of a new local tax levied on every adult.

Burmese opposition claims victory

RANGOON (R) — Burma's opposition said Sunday it was heading for a landslide victory in the country's first multi-party elections in 30 years even though the military government banned its most prominent leaders from standing. Thousands of supporters danced and sang outside the opposition National League for Democracy headquarters, but ended their celebrations before troops began to enforce the night curfew at 10 p.m. (1530 GMT). State radio, announcing the first result, said the league had won Rangoon's port district with 80 per cent of the vote (earlier story on page 5).

Egypt nabs 13 with heroin in stomachs

CAIRO (R) — Police at Cairo airport caught 13 Nigerian Sunday who had swallowed capsules of heroin to smuggle them from Bangkok to Lagos, security sources said. They said five men and eight women were caught with 20 kilograms of heroin with a street value of 20 million pounds (\$7.4 million). Two of the women were pregnant. Police, working on a tipoff, had taken the Nigerian to hospital where the drugs were detected by X-ray. The sources said another five Nigerian women in transit at Cairo airport were being investigated.

Arab leaders gather for Baghdad summit

By P.V. Vivekanand in Amman with agency dispatches

ARAB LEADERS gathered in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday for an emergency summit which is expected to discuss what is widely perceived as a pan-Arab security strategy in the face of a host of threats and challenges.

However, at least five Arab heads of state were not expected at the summit — President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman, President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon and King Hassan II of Morocco. While Algeria, Oman and Morocco were sending high-level delegations, it was not clear Sunday whether Syria and Lebanon were totally staying away from the conference on will send official delegations to Baghdad.

High among the agenda for the summit, called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), are Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, the right of Arab countries to acquire technology, the Middle East peace process, the lingering Iran-Iraq dispute and an Egyptian call for the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons from the region.

The conference, which is being held two days before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush are scheduled to meet in Washington for their second summit, will also send strongly-worded messages to the two superpowers calling for immediate action to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The memorandum urged the Arabs to avoid rhetoric, focus on direct Arab-Israeli negotiations and avoid outright denunciations of the Soviet Jewish emigration.

The memorandum also accused Iraq, which says it has developed binary chemical weapons and long-range missiles which it would use to retaliate if attacked by Israel, of violating international conventions banning use of chemical and biological weapons.

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accurate and insensitive."

The presence of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz was seen as significant at the summit, which comes at a time when strong signs of instability are emerging in the Middle East, whether through the massive influx of Soviet Jews which is seen as boosting Israel's resolve not to give any of the occupied Palestinian land, or through the nuclear/chemical conflict between Israel and Iraq and what is described as a Western/American campaign against Iraq's quest to build its military might.

However, "under the circumstances, the Arabs don't have any leverage on Moscow or Washington. Conditions of Arab dignity can only encourage the Israelis to be more intransigent," said the diplomat.

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Qadhafi continues mediation

LIBYAN leader Muammar Qadhafi Sunday continued his efforts to ensure Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's participation in the Baghdad summit.

Qadhafi, who arrived in Damascus Saturday, sent an envoy to Baghdad with a message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and the envoy returned to the Syrian capital Sunday evening with a reply message from the Iraqi leader, reports said. No further details were available.

However, the absence of Syrian leader Assad appeared to have dealt a blow to hopes that the Baghdad summit would be a turning point in Arab history, clearing the way for the Arab states, stretching from Morocco in the west to the United Arab Emirates in the east, to adopt a unify position and action.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi made a stopover in Damascus Saturday in an unsuccessful last-ditch effort to persuade Assad to travel to Baghdad, the capital of his Baathist rival Saddam Hussein.

According to Syrian spokesman Jibril Kourieh, Assad insisted that the summit should be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League in Tunis to decide a venue and prepare a detailed agenda.

Assad and Qadhafi discussed the

tremendous period," said Qatar's Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani.

The leaders of Egypt, Kuwait and Yemen also arrived in Baghdad Sunday, joining those of Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, who came Saturday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who counts as head of Palestine, arrived with Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

Saddam Hussein and his entourage broke into applause when Ali Abdallah Saleh, elected president of the new United Yemen last Tuesday, stepped out of the plane from Sanaa.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Sabouh said the summit was "lacking in initiative and strategy."

He told reporters: "If the summit were able to muster an action plan we'd have been much better off. But as things stand, we're taking stock of scattered incidents without being able to visualise a strategy. I would say Syria is far-sighted having decided not to attend."

Algeria announced Saturday that Benjedid would also stay away. It gave no reason but Algerian officials and newspapers had said a summit without Syria was pointless.

Algerians are also concerned that the failure to list Lebanon on the summit agenda could torpedo the work of a three-member committee set up by the last Arab summit in Casablanca in May 1989 to bring peace to the fractured country. Algeria played a key role in the committee which also included Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

There is increasing anxiety in the Arab World because of the dangers threatening the security of our nation," Sheikh Issa Ben Sulman Al Khalifa of Bahrain said.

"We are going through an ex-

King arrives in Baghdad, meets other Arab leaders

BAGHDAD — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Sunday at the head of the Jordaniens delegation to the emergency Arab summit which opens Monday.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and senior Iraqi leaders as well as Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Khaldi received the King and the accompanying delegation upon arrival.

The delegation includes Prime Minister Minister Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakir, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odah and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

The King was seen off upon departure from Amman by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was sworn in as Regent before the departure, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, and senior officials.

Shortly after his arrival and the welcoming ceremony, the King held talks with the leaders of Bahrain and Egypt on topics on the agenda of the summit, Jordan Television said. The Monarch was expected to meet with other Arab leaders later Sunday.

Chief editors accompany King

For the first time, the chief editors of Jordanian newspapers are accompanying the King to an Arab summit. Mahmoud Al Kayed of Al Ra'i, George Hawatmeh of the Jordan Times, Makhmud Al Sharif of Al Dustour and Sultan Hattab of Sawt Al Shaab travelled with the King to Baghdad Sunday upon a special invitation from His Majesty.

Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed will attend although Morocco has had cordial relations with Iraq for many years.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman is representing King Hassan of Morocco at the summit.

Prime Minister Azzeddine Laraki is representing King Hassan of Morocco at the summit.

No explanation was given why neither the king nor his elder son

leaders arrived in private jets.

President Hussein greeted each leader as a military band played national anthems and the military fired 21-gun salutes.

Baghdad was decorated with Arab slogans, banners fluttering atop trees and lamp-posts read: "United we stand, divided we fall" and "Jerusalem is calling you O Arab leaders."

Moscow warns migrants

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has told Arab leaders that it is trying to discourage Jewish emigrants to Israel from going to the occupied territories.

A message to the Arab summit which opens in Baghdad Monday said Moscow might also give migrants the right to return to the Soviet Union, a move requested by Arabs alarmed at the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

But in spite of a conciliatory tone towards Arab concerns, the message indicated no reversal on the right of Jews to emigrate. It was sent to the Arab League Tuesday and an Arabic text was obtained by Reuters Sunday.

The Soviet union sees that the right of emigration should not be at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people," it said.

"The Soviet Union has started an awareness activity among (Soviet Jewish) emigrants to warn them against travelling to occupied Arab territories," it said.

The Supreme Soviet was studying a draft law that would allow emigrants to keep their Soviet nationality "so that they could return home if they wanted to," it added.

The Soviet Union has also taken measures to limit the phenomenon of anti-Semitism which has been used as a pretext to encourage emigration," it said.

"The Soviet Union is continuing its efforts to coordinate with the United States, Western Europe and other countries to ensure that the emigrants are free to choose where to reside."

The Arabs see the new wave of Jewish emigration, coupled with Israel's rejection of peace talks, as a threat to peace efforts.

They fear many Soviet Jews will settle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials estimate that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews will go to Israel, but deny there are plans to settle them in the occupied territories and force out the Palestinian inhabitants.

Soldiers kill Gazan, shoot and wound at least 10

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army eased its longest curfew in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, and troops shot dead a Palestinian when clashes erupted in a crowded refugee camp, hospital officials said.

Reports said 10 other Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers as curfews confining people to their homes were lifted for more than half the 750,000 Palestinian residents of the strip.

Curfews were imposed on Gaza and the West Bank on May 20 after eight Palestinian labourers were massacred by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv, setting off a wave of protests that left 15 dead and hundreds wounded.

Most curfews have been lifted in the West Bank, where two Palestinians were reported Sunday in a clash with Israeli troops in Jenin. In Gaza, about 300,000 Palestinians remained confined to their homes in Gaza

city and surrounding refugee camps.

Palestinian reporters said most Gazans stayed away from jobs in Israel after leaders of the Palestinian uprising urged a strike until June 7 to protest the massacre.

Seven Jerusalem-based European consuls met the Palestinian nationalists Saturday and said they backed international supervision, while the U.S. representative said his government was prepared to discuss only a U.N. fact-finding mission.

There was marked disappointment with the American position and a clear statement that Palestinian peace overtures are being frustrated and undermined by U.S. timidity towards Israeli rejectionism," the Palestinians said in a statement.

"If the United States again thwarts Palestinian efforts to involve the international community in imposing law upon Israel, American credibility will be irreversibly damaged," it added.

A military spokesman said the army was investigating the death, which raised to 18 number of Palestinians killed by troops or Jewish settlers since the mass murder May 20.

Palestinian leaders who laun-

French troops deployed in Gabon oil port

LIBREVILLE (R) — Troop reinforcements sent from France have taken up position in Gabon's oil capital Port Gentil.

France sent 280 troops Thursday and an unknown number arrived Saturday to take up positions in Port Gentil, 130 kilometres from the capital Libreville.

Libreville, scene of violent anti-government demonstrations last week, was calm Sunday but diplomats said trouble continued in Port Gentil.

French sources said Gabonese troops in Port Gentil were trying to avoid direct confrontation with the protesters who went on a rampage last week following the suspicious death of Joseph Rendjambé, a leading opponent of President Omar Bongo.

The doctor said at least 200 people had been injured, many of them with gunshot wounds, and were lying on hospital floors already crowded by 150 casualties from Saturday's clashes.

Troops were called out to take over security after the shooting in Libreville and in parts of Port Gentil, 130 Kilometres away, where 18 people died in a series of clashes.

Officials said 12 people died in firing by unidentified gunmen and clashes with police in Libreville's Liagouet district and the rest in four other areas.

The Hydralab bloodbath, which took the death toll in Sidi province to over 120 this month, was the culmination of two weeks of clashes between Moftajir migrants and native Sidiins.

Israel-U.S. ties headed for crisis, envoy says

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ambassador to the United States was quoted Sunday as saying the Jewish state faced a severe crisis in relations with its closest ally unless it advanced Middle East peace efforts.

Yedioth Achronot, Israel's biggest-selling daily, quoted what it said was a secret cable from Ambassador Moshe Arad to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

"Israel stands before a grave crisis in its relations with the United States which obliges it to re-examine its policies, particularly on contentious issues, chiefly the peace process and settlement," the cable said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could not comment on internal documents but a government source acknowledged relations were strained.

"The situation is difficult, there's no denying it," he said.

Arad's warning was leaked as ministers voiced satisfaction in a cabinet meeting that Israel had apparently blunted a drive by PLO leader Yasser Arafat to have U.N. observers sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The army lifted curfews from all remaining West Bank towns

and part of the Gaza Strip Sunday. But clashes soon erupted in Gaza and troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian in the Deir Al Balah refugee camp.

The United States angered Israel last week by saying it was ready to discuss sending a U.N. observer team. But at a U.N. Security Council meeting in Geneva Friday and Saturday it blocked the idea of Security Council involvement.

Ties with Washington, which gives Israel \$3 billion a year, have deteriorated sharply since Shamir refused in March to accept U.S. proposals for peace talks with Palestinians.

His Labour coalition partners quit in response, leaving Shamir at the head of a hardline caretaker cabinet.

Relations cooled further after Shamir's government admitted secretly funding a Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City and supported two new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.S. criticism of Israel's hand-

ling of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising in the territories sharpened last week after a crazed Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers. Troops and Jewish settlers have killed 17 more and wounded about 900 in subsequent protests.

Israel continued to reject any U.N. mission to the occupied Arab territories Sunday and dismissed Arafat's speech to the special Geneva session of the Security Council as exploiting the killing for political ends.

"Israel will not agree to a mission of the United Nations which will come by virtue of a Security Council resolution or on behalf of it or to any U.N. delegation which will be connected with the subject of security in the territories," Arens told the cabine.

Despite the ban on U.N. observers, unofficial watchings abounded at the weekend in a show of international concern.

French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Aid Bernard Kouchner was due to meet Shamir after touring the occupied Arab territories and a Soviet delegation led by a former deputy foreign minister began a 10-day visit last Thursday.

Kidnappers threaten U.S., Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnappers holding two U.S. hostages have vowed to make the United States and Israel "pay the price" for the killing of seven Palestinian workers in Israel last week by a gunman.

But the Organisation of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, in a statement issued Saturday, did not directly threaten to harm the two hostages.

In another development, PLO chief Yasser Arafat reportedly said two Swiss Red Cross workers kidnapped in Lebanon seven months ago are alive, and he offered to help mediate their release.

The Arabic-language statement, delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, came with an instant picture of U.S. hostages Jesse Turner and Alann Steen. They were kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987, from Beirut University College.

The picture showed a smiling, bespectacled Turner wearing a bushy black beard and a striped pullover. Steen wore a dark jumpsuit and a beard, and his hair was slightly disheveled. Both looked straight at the camera.

The picture resembled a photograph the group released on Feb. 23, 1989, showing Turner and Steen along with former American hostage Robert Polhill.

On April 22, the same group released Polhill, a New Yorker and a lecturer in accounting who was kidnapped with Steen and Turner.

Turner, 42, of Boise, Idaho, and Steen, 50, a native of Boston, were professors serving with the U.S.-affiliated college when they were abducted by gunmen posing as Lebanese riot police.

Eight days after Polhill was freed, another pro-Iranian group, the Organisation of Islamic Dawn, released U.S. hostage Frank Herbert Reed, 57, after 3 and 1/2 years in captivity.

Iranian leaders and their Lebanese allies have since complained the United States has failed to respond with a goodwill gesture of its own.

"America is directly responsible for shedding the blood of our people and their cause," the 18-line statement said Saturday, referring to the shooting deaths of seven Arab labourers in a Tel Aviv suburb on May 20.

Iranian officials have said the accused gunman, a former Israeli soldier, was apparently deranged. The shootings prompted widespread unrest among Arabs in Jordan, Israel and the occupied Arab territories. Arafat also cited the U.N. Security Council in Geneva Friday to send an international force to protect Palestinians in the occupied lands.

"We warn America and Israel that future developments will not be in the interest of either of them. They will realize that the blood will not be wasted. They will pay the price," the kidnappers' statement said.

"America seeks all costs to retain its base, Israel, in the east and will not permit even verbal resolutions of an adverse nature against Israel." This was seen as a reference to frequent U.S. vetoes of U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israeli actions.

Asked about the statement, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Anita Stuckman in Washington said: "I don't really have anything I can comment on in terms of the report except to say that our general policy is to say that the hostages should be freed immediately and unconditionally."

When Vanunu took the stand at the time, he argued that his disclosures about Israel's nuclear capabilities were not new. His family said he had acted for ideological reasons because he feared the spread of nuclear weapons.

Feldman said that though Vanunu was allowed to see his family once a month, he had not seen them because he refused to meet them behind bars.

Islamic party seizes initiative in Algerian campaign

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim fundamentalists have seized the initiative with fiery religious rhetoric in an otherwise lackluster campaign for Algeria's first free elections since independence.

Two weeks before local polls likely to end 27 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN), many newly legal political parties are bogged down in financial woes and internal squabbles.

"Your vote is a trust, they will ask you about it on the day of judgment," say the banners. "Neither east nor west — Islamic municipalities," says another.

FLN candidate in Hammam, Abdellah Hamid Hattab, told a rally Friday God would punish those who did not vote for a "Muslim" — apparently meaning a FLN candidate.

Highly motivated and apparently well funded, FLN supporters have been canvassing door to door and — according to their opponents — tearing down rival posters.

This has alarmed liberal opposition parties like Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the only one to state openly its belief in a separation of religion

and state.

"From the moment one party says it represents God and the others the devil there is a danger of things getting out of hand," the RCD's Azzedine Ait Larbi told Reuters.

The FLN has so far done relatively little direct campaigning, but opponents say it does not have to.

The FLN controls a huge state budget, most of the media and an entrenched position that gives it unrivaled levers of power-winning patronage.

"This is the first multi-party poll since independence. Algeria legitimately says if the FLN is going to play the game or if the whole thing is a trap," said Ait Larbi.

As the campaign started, the FLN government raised public sector salaries, cracked down on the black market and launched a youth job programme. The opposition has accused it of electioneering, a charge denied by Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche.

Israel expects 20,000 Soviet immigrants per month

TEL AVIV (AP) — Immigration officials have said Israel expects the number of Soviet immigrants to increase to 20,000 each month starting this summer.

Gad Ben Ari, spokesman for the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency which is responsible for immigration, told the Associated Press the rise in arrivals would result from increasing the number of Jews leaving by existing transit routes.

Ben Ari declined to go into details. Israeli officials have refused to discuss exact routes following threats by Arab extremists to block the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The immigration also have affected Israel's relations with the Soviet Union, which has refused to renew formal diplomatic cut after the 1967 Middle East war.

Washington also has warned

Finland agreed earlier this month to allow its soil to be used as a transit point. Most Soviet Jews have been coming via Romania and Hungary since the Soviet Union refused regular direct flights.

The new wave of Soviet immigrants has caused a controversy because of Palestinian fears that many of them will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Simcha Dinitz, head of the Jewish agency, was quoted in Israeli media Monday as saying 20,000 Jews would begin arriving each month because of an increase in the number of officials

of transit routes.

Ben Ari confirmed that 20,000 figure, saying the higher rate of arrival would be achieved in July or August.

The wave of Soviet immigrants results from eased Soviet exit policies, growing reports of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and tighter restrictions on Russian immigrants entering the United States.

Court upholds 18 years jail term for Vanunu

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli supreme court Sunday rejected the appeal of a former nuclear technician whose disclosure to a British newspaper that Israel had the atom bomb severely embarrassed the Jewish state.

The court upheld an 18-year jail term for espionage and treason passed on Mondchai Vanunu by the Jerusalem District Court in 1988. Both the appeal and the original trial were held behind closed doors and shrouded in secrecy.

"America is directly responsible for shedding the blood of our people and their cause," the 18-line statement said Saturday, referring to the shooting deaths of seven Arab labourers in a Tel Aviv suburb on May 20.

Iranian leaders and their Lebanese allies have since complained the United States has failed to respond with a goodwill gesture of its own.

"We think the case raises extremely complex and important questions... we will consider asking for a hearing on a fall bench of the (supreme) court with maybe four, five, seven or nine judges," Feldman told reporters, adding that he was thinking about other means he could not yet specify.

Feldman said that in 30 days

the court would hear arguments for publishing the verdict and a part of the court proceedings.

"We will ask for a publication of the judgment and a large part of the proceedings. We think the issues raised in the Vanunu case are far beyond the legal process and should be judged by public opinion," Feldman said.

Early in his trial, Vanunu managed to flash a message to reporters written on the palm of his hand saying he had been lured to Rome and kidnapped there.

Though Israel has never admitted holding nuclear weapons, it is widely assumed to have them.

Vanunu's 1986 disclosures to the Sunday Times infuriated Israeli leaders and were used by Arab adversaries to justify their chemical weapons programmes.

Peter Hounam, the journalist who took Vanunu from his home in Australia to Britain for the interview with his newspaper and then provided evidence for the defence, said the verdict was unprecedented and very harsh.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algeria, Vietnam discuss ties

ALGIERS (R) — The presidents of Vietnam and Algeria, whose countries both waged long wars against French colonialism, met Sunday to discuss boosting ties, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported. Vo Chi Cong, president of Vietnam's Council of State, had talks with Chadli Bendjedid. He arrived Saturday for a week-long visit during which he will tour Algerian oil and industrial projects. Cong noted on arrival both countries were in the throes of deep changes — reform of Socialist economic systems put in place in the 1970s. He said his visit was aimed at creating "new opportunities to enlarge and promote bilateral cooperation."

Boat sinks in Istanbul, one killed

ISTANBUL (AP) — A cruise boat carrying members of handball teams from Iraq, the Soviet Union and Algeria sank Sunday, killing one person and injuring 10, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported. There could be more people trapped in the boat, which sank off Istanbul, Anatolia reported. The boat was carrying 71 passengers and many swam ashore or were picked up by fishing boats in the vicinity. The victims were not immediately identified. Adem Cevik, the boat's captain, told Anatolia the passengers had gathered at one end of the boat despite his warnings not to do so and upset the boat's balance. "The boat suddenly listed and I lost control of the rubber," Cevik said, according to Anatolia.

Israeli jailed for defacing Jewish graves

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Sunday jailed a religious Jew for three years after he confessed to desecrating some 300 Jewish graves in a warped effort to unite Israelis against Arab and anti-Semitic threats. The court in the northern city of Haifa gave David Goldner, a 41-year-old former computer engineer who recently turned religious, the maximum sentence for vandalism and dismembering the dead. It added a one-year suspended sentence. Goldner admitted to police that he daubed graffiti such as "burn the Jews" on graves in three Haifa cemeteries earlier this month after the desecration of Jewish graves in the southern French town of Carpentras. He said he was trying to arouse awareness of the threats to Israel's existence.

UK to deport 2 for anti-Rushdie plot

LONDON (AP) — Two men who were reported to have plotted against Satanic Verses author Salman Rushdie will be deported and four others have been released, authorities said Saturday. A spokesman for Scotland Yard police headquarters said the men were detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. But he would not give the nationalities of the men and would not comment on the reported connection with a plot against Rushdie. Two men were released Friday and two were released Saturday, police said.

Saudi Arabia not threatened by Oman

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghan government troops have thwarted an attack on the besieged garrison of Khost, killing 300 guerrillas, state-run Kabul Radio reported.

Seven soldiers and four civilians also died and 15 civilians were wounded in Saturday's attack on the garrison, located 30 kilometres from the Pakistan border, said the radio report, monitored in Islamabad.

The radio also said guerrillas

locusts but those coming from Africa

future, depending on environmental conditions. But they could also head toward Somalia and the southern parts of the Arabian peninsula, he said.

"There is a very slight possibility that, on their way toward these destinations, the locusts may hover across the Eastern and southern parts of the kingdom," Salem Bamfieh said. "But this remains a very dim possibility," he stressed.

Saudi Arabia was invaded last

year by large swarms of desert locusts from East Africa, and it deployed an intense campaign to combat them.

Bamfieh cautioned, "the next

season may be active. This de-

pends on the quantities of rainfall

in the areas in which locusts are found," he said.

It will be warm and winds will be

easternly moderate to fresh, causing

dust in the eastern and southern parts

of the country. In Aqaba, winds will be

northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

PRAYER TIMES

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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Minister of Health Mohammed Addoush Al Zaben (second from left) Sunday attends the seventh annual meeting of managers of EPI. Present are Dr. Hamed Al Jaziri WHO-East Mediterranean re-

gional director (left) and Richard Reid (right), UNICEF-Middle East and North Africa regional director.

Jordan's immunisation programmes reap results

AMMAN (Petra) — Thanks to assistance received over the past years from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Jordan is now almost free of polio and is advancing through immunisation programmes towards providing better health services for children of all ages, Health Minister Mohammad Addoush Al Zaben said Sunday.

Addressing the opening session of the seventh annual meeting of managers of Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI), which began in Amman Sunday, the minister said that a national immunisation programme, backed by the two United Nations orga-

nisations, enjoys full backing from the political leadership of Jordan and is fully implemented by the health authorities in the country.

In his address the minister reviewed the long struggle against the infectious diseases that used to cause a high mortality rate among millions of children and infants and expressed hope that the meeting would discuss most up-to-date methods to monitor and deal most effectively with diseases that affect children like tetanus, polio and measles.

The EPI three-day meeting organised by WHO and UNICEF is being attended by delegates from 24 countries in the Near East and North African coun-

tries.

WHO regional Director Hus-

sein Abdul Razzaq Al Jaziri and

UNICEF regional Director

Richard Reid delivered addresses at the opening session outlining their organisations' role in carrying out immunisation programmes worldwide to benefit children and infants.

Both Reid and Jaziri paid tribute to Jordan's efforts in dealing with diseases through widespread immunisation programmes. According to Reid, Jordan is one of three countries in the region which have succeeded in eliminating infant mortality as a result of diarrhoea, a major child killing disease.

Arab countries agree on industrial cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Industrial Development and Mining (AOIDM) signed an agreement here Sunday with the Amman-based general-secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Yemen, to pave the way for co-operating in industrial and mining fields.

The AOIDM will carry out feasibility studies on prospects of industrial and mining projects in the four countries and will exchange with the ACC member states expertise and statistics related to mining and industry, according to the agreement.

ACC Secretary-General Hisham Nammar, who signed the agreement with AOIDM Secretary-General Hafiz Abdul Rashid, said that the two sides would cooperate in exchanging experts, in setting up joint technical teams in industry and mining-related fields and in organising training seminars and conferences on subjects of common concern.

Perec

(Continued from page 1) style in the campaign was based on the research elements totally controlled by the party chairman," it said.

The report also said that lower-ranking party institutions and leaders were not involved enough in the campaign while "professional institutions were too much involved in the political side" of it.

It said the Decima Public Opinion Institute hired by Labour was too optimistic in its forecasts and that the owner of Gitan company, Perez' image adviser who is not a Labour member, "had an exaggerated influence on the campaign."

In a separate statement accompanying the report, two members of the investigative team blamed Perez for conducting the campaign "in an almost presidential style."

"It is difficult to cancel a possibility that this strategy was adopted to improve positions within the party," army radio quoted their statement as saying.

Perez' party rival, former Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, made an emotional speech, saying he felt preferring "family peace to an argument" was a mistake.

The 1988 campaign was built on one assumption: That party head is an electoral asset and the party is a burden," he charged. "We need decisions leading to real democratisation in the party. Let the members choose their leaders."

Perez said he was ready to face the challenge.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Mitterrand thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable from French President Francois Mitterrand, thanking him for his care and sympathy for the French tourists, who were wounded during last week disturbances, during their stay at Hussein Medical Centre. President Mitterrand wished the Jordanian citizen who was wounded in the incident, a speedy recovery.

German delegation in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-man German delegation from the Interior Ministry and the Border Police Department Sunday arrived in Amman on a five-day visit to Jordan for talks with Public Security officers on scopes of cooperation in various security fields as well as the use of advanced technology in the control of crimes. The delegation members will meet with Public Security Director Fadel Al Fheid, and his assistants and will visit several public security units. The delegation members will also visit touristic and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Jordan, Austria to boost cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Austria Sunday signed an agreement for social and cultural exchange, under which youth leaderships from both countries will exchange visits and take part in youth camps held in either countries. According to the agreement with the Austrian Ministry of Environment and Youth will receive a 10-member Jordanian youth delegation during the months of June and July 1991, while Jordan will receive a similar Austrian delegation in September 1992.

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Algiers symposium tackles water problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a three-day symposium organised in Algiers by the European Community (EC) to discuss proper means to rationalise the use of water resources for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf left for the Algerian capital Sunday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the meeting which is being attended by countries within the Mediterranean basin.

The meeting, which is due to open Monday, will deal with means of protecting water resources from excessive use by improving the level of water resources management and the efficiency of technicians employed in water-related affairs.

According to Khalaf, specialists in water affairs from different countries of the world are taking part in the symposium.

Earlier this month, Khalaf warned that Jordan's estimated use of water for domestic purposes alone could reach 260 million cubic metres annually by the year 2005, up from 180 million at present.

In view of the scarce resources of water in Jordan, due largely to the poor rainfall this year, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation

has started a water distribution programme since the beginning of May. The ministry expects excessive consumption of water during the summer in view of the presence of a large number of expatriates visiting the country.

Meanwhile, a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily on Sunday said that the ministry had decided to stop water pumping to Amman from the Deir Alla region in the Jordan Valley to save water for irrigation purposes in the valley.

The report quoted Ministry of Water and Irrigation secretary-general as saying that the measure will be implemented only during the summer.

There is a shortage of water supply in the Jordan Valley and the decision was taken to stop pumping water from Deir Alla to Amman as a result of coordination between the ministry and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), according to JVA Secretary-General Mohammad Bani Hani.

Shortly before the decision to stop water supplies to Amman, which took effect Friday, Bani Hani said water was pumped for eight hours daily during the night, and at the rate of 10,000 cubic metres, down from 124,000 cubic metres when the pumping first started in January.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday meets with a U.N. fact-finding mission (Petra photo)

Regent briefs fact finding mission on situation in the occupied Arab lands

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday briefed a U.N. fact finding mission, currently on a visit to Jordan on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, in light of the recent developments.

At a special audience, the Regent said that the long-standing unresolved issues, including the Palestinian question, the Lebanon problem and the Gulf problem have remained unsolved and said that prospects for establishing genuine peace are becoming gloomier by the day.

Prince Hassan said that Israel had recently diverted attention from the main issue of ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people by encouraging and welcoming the new waves of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

The report was presented by the Director of the ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatani who discussed the situation in the Israeli-held territories.

Qatani said that 52 per cent

authorities and many of the lands were used for setting up Jewish settlements which now number 2,000.

Qatani spoke about Israel's immigration policies and said that the immigrants are being settled on occupied Arab lands, a move which endangers the peace process.

Qatani also outlined the Jordanian government's assistance to the people of the occupied Arab lands.

The fact-finding mission was set up by the United Nations Arab territories. To carry out its task the mission members have been visiting the Arab area on an annual basis, hearing reports about the situation in Palestine and interviewing witnesses who give testimony to Israel's illegal practices and violations.

Young virtuoso to hold concert

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory, in cooperation with the Goethe Institute will present Jordanian pianist Rula Nabil in a concert on Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

At the concert, held under the patronage of West German Ambassador Herwig Bartels, Nabil will be playing works by Beethoven and Mozart.

Rula Cameron Nabil, born in Amman in 1966, started her music lessons at the age of seven under well-known piano tutor Hind Shabani and continued until she passed the Grade 8 Performance Examination of the Association Board of the Royal Schools of Music in the United Kingdom.

In 1983, she was awarded Her Majesty Queen Noor's Music Scholarship and her further education was arranged in Germany by the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education and the "Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst" (DAAD).

In his message to the PSD director Saturday, the King expressed pride in and appreciation of the role played by the police and security forces especially in handling violent protests which resulted in the death of two persons and the injury of at least 25 others.

"The security forces will remain committed to ensure safety and stability in Jordan and in protecting and safeguarding the higher national interest," Fheid added.

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The self-restraint exercised by the security forces in dealing with



Rula Nabil

Rula now devotes her mornings preparing her concert programmes, while she shares the afternoons with her students.

In its issue of 13 September 1985, the Buendner Zeitung said Rula Nabil "showed an amazing feeling for style and musical facility like flowing pearls."

Novitas said in its issue of 4 September 1987 that Rula Nabil "charmed us all through with the sparkling liveliness and freshness of technical brilliance."

Her first task in Germany

was to undertake an intensive language course at the Goethe Institute and to prepare simultaneously for a highly competitive entrance examination.

Having achieved both these

prerequisites, she started formal music education at the "State Music Academy of Heidelberg and Mannheim;" for her piano work she had the expertise and guidance of Professor Hans Helmut Schwarz.

After six years, Rula obtained her ML degree in music education majoring in piano performance. During this period she had extensive stage experience, both as a soloist and with various ensembles in numerous European cities. Since her return to Amman, around two years ago, she gave some performances here too.

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Jordan Times

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Putting the Arab house in order

THE FAILURE or success of the emergency Arab summit that convenes in Baghdad today will certainly shape the future of the Arab Nation for decades to come. Nowhere in its history has the Arab Order faced so many grave and intense problems; conflicts are many: war, sectarian strife, fundamentalism, economic hardships, a changing world and what not. These and many others are the major preoccupation of almost every Arab country; not even the affluent are spared. The problems are indeed ominous and the task that faces the Arab leaders gathered in Baghdad is formidable.

If maxims are anything to go by, and if charity begins at home, then the first priority of work that awaits the Baghdad summit is putting the Arab house in order. They have to face the threats from within before bracing themselves from a position of strength to confront the external threats and challenges, whether from Israel, Iran, Ethiopia, the U.S., the West or a united Europe. And the greatest threat from within is the cry for war, a calamitous solution for all the failures and catastrophes that befall the Arabs over the decades. But Arab leaders, thank God, realise that wars leave behind only destruction and misery.

That the enemies of the Arab Nation are conspiring against us should not come as a surprise. If anything, it should be the propelling force behind us to conspire against them. But, the problem is when Arabs conspire against Arabs and fight each other. The Arab masses are sick and tired of the continued inter-Arab bickerings and infights which serve no-one but the enemy and sap our own energies and resources. The people of the Arab World at large are indeed restless of the failure of their leaders to even solve its bread and butter issues, not to mention water, social, security and political problems. If world powers, whom many Arab states appear bent upon emulating in various other fields, are opting for reconciliation and compromise with a view to diverting attention to addressing their people's problems, isn't it time the Arabs followed suit?

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Sunday discussed the situation in the occupied Arab lands in the light of a debate held by the United Nations Security Council, and wondered whether the Soviet Union which had allowed the aggravation of the situation in the region to continue, can now allow things to deteriorate further. The Soviet Union should stop the emigration of Soviet Jews who are now destined to settle on Arab lands, simply because this settlement is being done at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine and their homeland, said the paper. The Soviet Union ought to stop this emigration until Israel accepts U.N.-sponsored arrangements for providing protection to the Palestinians prior to finding a just and lasting settlement to their problems, the paper stressed. It said the Israeli prime minister has already rejected PLO leader Yasser Arafat's call for observer teams to be sent to Palestine as part of a package arrangement to ensure the protection of the civilian population. This rejection is a clear indication that Israel refuses United Nations Security Council resolutions and is bent to pursue criminal policies against the Palestinian people, the paper noted. The paper said that it now remains to be seen whether Moscow will allow the current situation to continue and so give Israel a free hand in dealing with the lives of the civilian population in Palestine.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily on Sunday reminds the Arab leaders who are meeting in Baghdad Monday of the failures of the past summits to put an end to Israel's arrogance and ambitious dreams in the Arab World. Abdul Rahim Omar recalls the failure of the various Arab armies sent in to fight the Israelis in the 1948 war, and how they failed to prevent the occupation of most of Palestine. The writer notes that the 1948 tragedy occurred soon after an Arab summit was held in Bludan in Syria, and that other setbacks took place at the hand of Israel following other summits by the Arab heads of state. The writer also reminds the Arab leaders of Israel's seizure of water resources and its absorption of hundreds of thousands of Jews to settle in Palestine, while the Arab World failed to stop this great catastrophe. Omar notes, however that the summit, to convene in Baghdad Monday, takes place under completely different circumstances and as the Arabs, specially Iraq, are far more stronger militarily than ever before, and as the Arab leaders meeting in the Iraqi capital are more determined this time to thwart Israel's plans. It is up to the Arab leaders now, says the writer, to find proper measures to put an end to Israel's atrocities against the Palestinians and to thwart its ambitious designs in the Arab World.

Al Dastour commented Sunday on Washington's underhand dealings with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestine question in particular. Washington has retracted a statement in which it displayed willingness to send United Nations observer teams to Palestine to monitor Israel's human rights violations and other atrocities, said the paper. Retraction of statements could not be the end of the road for the United States which could be expected to take a step designed to give Israel a free hand in dealing with the Palestinian people and to prevent any United Nations moves that could stop Israel from committing atrocities, the paper noted. It is clear that as Washington is trying to escape pressure from the Zionist lobby in Congress it finds itself bogged down in confused foreign policy, costing America its credibility world-wide, the paper noted. It said that as Washington is being pushed into a situation where it is openly encouraging aggression, it is leaving the Arabs with no alternative but to totally rule out any peaceful solution.

Time is running out for Mideast peace

By HRH Prince Hassan

The following article by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince appeared in the New York Times Saturday, May 26, 1990.

AMMAN — The killings of innocent Palestinians by Israelis in the occupied territories, and the subsequent popular uproar and agitation, underscore the need for the Arabs and Israelis urgently to fashion their own special glasnost — an accommodation that would seriously tackle the festering issues that have hammed the Middle East for generations.

Failure to arrive at this accommodation will surely escalate violence and terrorism, leading to yet another unaffordable war. Neither side will emerge a victor, because in fighting each other, Arabs and Israelis would be fighting the wrong enemy.

The real enemy is an expanding international fundamentalist movement. Jewish extremists constitute one element of this movement; the recent storming of the St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem, two days before Good Friday and Easter, was a manifestation of their bigotry.

Another element of the expanding fundamentalist movement is an Islamic cohort, that is influential in the politics of Muslim societies from Southeast Asia westward through Afghanistan to Lebanon and North Africa.

Islamic extremists are likely to become active in the intifada. The consequences will not be pleasant for Israel, nor for Jordan.

Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We cannot afford to wait until the Arabs and Israelis make suitable

compromises that would bring them to the negotiating table. They must be induced to talk to one another — now.

It will not do any longer for the U.N. Security Council to merely consider, and perhaps approve, resolutions condemning Israel's hostile actions against Palestinians. It is encouraging that the Security

The real enemy is an expanding international fundamentalist movement. Jewish extremists constitute one element of this movement; the recent storming of the St. John's Hospice in Jerusalem, two days before Good Friday and Easter, was a manifestation of their bigotry.

Council has just met in Geneva in response to a call by the Palestine Liberation Organisation following the massacres of Palestinians. The Council, however, must convene an international peace conference to activate a new dialogue on peace in the Middle East.

Unless peace prevails, there will be a different kind of war to contend with — a war that knows no territorial or national boundaries. It will be a war not between nation-states but one waged against the nation-state. It will be a war of attrition that seeks to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the current state system. The aim of this war would

be to reduce national entities to their sectarian components.

The only triumphant residue or such a war would be politico-religious fundamentalism — Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The Gulf, Palestine, Lebanon — all these places are only the flashpoints. The fanatical war, if unchecked, could extend from Cairo to Islamabad and beyond. We would then witness the ethnic and cultural Lebanonisation of our region.

Make no mistake about it; the "domino theory", so widely cited in the 1960's by those who advocated U.S. intervention to contain Communism in Southeast Asia, is alive and kicking in the Middle East.

In this respect, Jordan's goal has been to check Iran's quest for hegemony over the region and its vital resources, such as oil, and to contain the rising tide of religious fanaticism.

Jordan believes, as do other moderate Arab states, that an international resolution of the Mideast conflict can be best debated and defined under U.N. sponsorship. The Arab summit meeting in Baghdad will, Amman hopes, provide a fresh consensus about the need to renew the peace process. The Arabs' ability to act during and after that meeting is as critical to the process as is Arab unity.

The exchange of land for peace can be the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement. Such an exchange is embodied in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a withdrawal by foreign forces from the occupied territories and which also implicitly recognise the existence of Israel as a sovereign state.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union must assume greater responsibility in expediting the peace process. Proposals must be designed to accommodate the political requirements of

the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews.

Israel can no longer deny the existence of the principal aggrieved party in the dispute, the Palestinian people. Successive Israeli prime ministers have tried to deal with the Palestinian question through third parties.

For several years, Israel toyed with the "Jordanian option", and currently it appears to have appointed Egypt as surrogate. But it is neither Jordan's nor Egypt's responsibility to participate in this subterfuge. Nor should they, since it would signify their acquiescence to the denial of the Palestinians' fundamental right to national self-determination.

Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate international law, the U.S. and Europe should predicate their subsidisation of the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews on Israel's freezing all settlement activity in the occupied territories. They can do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing annual quotas for Soviet Jews to settle in their own countries.

Israel must be more forthcoming about implementing fair elections in the occupied territories. The Israeli government has centered its objection on the emotional question of Palestinian representation. Israel's denying the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people continues to be an impediment to progress. No doubt Israel's purpose is to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their acknowledged and recognised leaders in the PLO.

We hold out both a challenge and an olive branch to the Israelis. Will they seize the opportunity for a lasting peace for a region that has suffered so much?

Weekly Political Pulse

Taiwan: Industrial giant seeking unity with Mainland

By Waleed Sadi

TAIPEI has come to age this year with renewed confidence and conviction to wage unity talks with Peking. Two forces have contributed to this fresh start from Taiwan: One is the underlying belief that it is not realistic to avoid unity with Mainland China under one formula or another and, therefore, the sooner contacts between the two sides begin the better the two can get prepared for their irrevocable destiny. The second force is Taiwan's economic strength which is only second to Japan when measured in accumulated foreign reserves and that country's future prospects. This newly acquired economic and fiscal muscle has enabled Taipei to pursue a resolute "foreign policy" that is more associated with economic goals than with purely political considerations. In this vein, Taipei is tiding high on the new ground rules for diplomacy in the international arena where the language of hard currencies is getting louder and more relevant than traditional political rivalries based on ideology. With a foreign reserve topping \$79 million, Taipei now talks and acts as a mighty economic power that many poorer countries would covet strengthening their relationship with her.

The phasing out of martial law regime in Taiwan, as has been confirmed on the occasion of taking the oath of office by President Lee Teng-Hui on May 20, is also another vivid sign that Taiwan feels more confident than ever politically as well economically. This bold action also signified the end of the era of open confrontation with Peking as a relic of past times and circumstances. President Teng-Hui words on the occasion of his inauguration for a six-year term echoed this new spirit that is projected to dominate the future Taipei-Peking relations.

To give further expression to this new line of thinking towards Mainland China, President Teng-Hui also announced the end of his country's 40-year-old policy based on the three no's: no official contact, no negotiations and no compromise. As a matter of fact economic and political contacts between the two sides have been nurturing over the past few years and found expression in the visits to China by several Taiwanese parliamentary delegations and the funding of several economic ventures there by indirect investment from Taiwan. Also many Taiwanese with mainland roots have made repeated visits to their ancestral homeland. A smaller number of Mainlanders have made similar trips to visit their relatives in Taiwan.

Meanwhile, the inauguration of the new president was marred by

In one way emerges from a brief sojourn to Taiwan more convinced than ever that the two sides, China and Taiwan, will end their competition and confrontation somehow and sometime. The big question is when such complete reconciliation between them can be expected to come about. With changes taking place so swiftly all over the world, there is a deep-rooted faith in Taiwan that these changes will sweep the two sides together within a decade or so. With per capita in China still around \$300, there will come a time when it may seek a helping hand from Taiwan, thus accelerating their rapprochement.

Africa day:

Challenge of development, reforms

The following is the text of the message of Egyptian President Mohammad Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity on the occasion of the celebration of Africa Day, May 26.

TODAY we celebrate Africa Day. Twenty seven years ago, on this very day, the free will of Africa had converged on establishing the OAU. The OAU stood and still stands as a great edifice for the aspirations of African peoples for freedom, unity, solidarity and progress. Africans, regardless of their varied social and political systems supported their continental organisation in order to eradicate the long and notorious era of colonialism and lay the bases of constructive and fruitful cooperation and joint action among all the countries of Africa. Today the OAU is a reality, a driving force in present African life and in the world at large.

Today is indeed a moment of reflection on the long and glorious march Africa has taken over the years, the struggles and achievements and the remaining problems of economic and social developments as well as the issues of human rights and democracy.

Namibia's independence of the 21st of March 1990 is indeed a great achievement and symbol of freedom, dignity and national sovereignty for all Africa. Now with the independence of Namibia, we trust that endeavours should be pursued to bring about, without

delay, and end to the policies of racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa. Africa shall never rest, and struggle shall continue until the system of apartheid and the policy of racial discrimination are dismantled.

The challenge that besets Africa today is the realisation of sustained development as well as social and economic reforms. This stands as our first and foremost target. For the realisation of that target, every effort should be made to achieve African economic integration by the year 2000 in implementation of the Lagos plan action. We should also work harder to increase economic cooperation among African countries.

It must be underlined, however, that the problems facing Africa have far-reaching effects that not only affect the dignity of the continent and its legitimate rights but also have adverse effects on world peace and stability. The destructive consequences of these problems are bound to extend beyond the African continent to encompass the whole world.

The time has come, to alert world public opinion to the plight of Africa. Time has come for a genuine and meaningful dialogue and cooperation between North and South. Debtor and creditor countries should take further steps to find concrete ways and means to improve the economic situation of African countries and to ease their critical financial problems. Detente

LETTER

I do not understand

To the Editor:

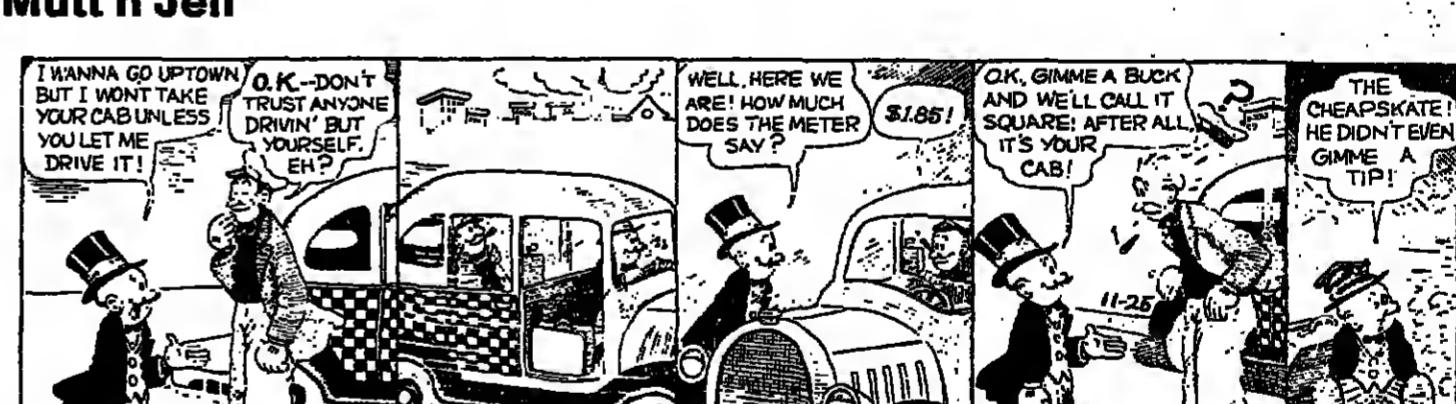
I WONDERED on reading the article Nelly Lanna wrote on my exhibition, how I could have said something, I myself do not understand. What does, "experimentation should be done on an aesthetic basis and attempts to reach a healthy combination of both essentials" mean? As for my teachers, I feel grateful and indebted to them for all the attention, guidance and encouragement they gave me. It was only the whole academic system that I had shamed.

I wish critics would try less hard at being complex, and write instead in a language that the ordinary reader can comprehend. Ever since I read the article, I have been looking at my poor "Vase with Leaves," with both puzzlement and bewilderment. I had only enjoyed painting what I saw, I was never aware of either solving, or creating problems.

Last, I would like to point a possibly trivial detail, but the Matisse mentioned in my painting, is just a modest line-print of mine.

Randa Berouti
Amman

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Albania set to rejoin world

SO ALBANIA has not proved immune to the "wind of change" which has swept through and transformed Eastern Europe over the past year. Even this last surviving Stalinist regime in the region has now promised a package of reforms which, if fully implemented, will soften its repressive and repressive image.

Since coming under Communist control in 1946, the 3.3 million citizens of this small Balkan country have been virtually cut off from the outside world, especially under the dictator, Enver Hoxha, who ruled until 1985.

The reforms were announced shortly before the arrival of United Nations' Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the first visit to Tirana. It was the strongest sign yet that the Albanian regime wished to end its isolation.

Before leaving, the secretary-general said the Albanian leadership had assured him that it would not retreat from its reform process. His hosts had also shown "great flexibility" on all questions of human rights.

Under the reform programme ordinary Albanians will be allowed passports to travel abroad for the first time in more than four decades. However, it will be difficult to exercise this right, given the level of poverty and the shortage of foreign currency.

Other changes include the restoration of Ministry of Justice — abolished in 1965 — and the softening of the penal code, reducing the number of capital



Albania, Eastern Europe's last bastion of hardline Communist rule, is showing strong signs of wanting to end its long, self-imposed isolation. This was underlined by the first-ever visit of a

United Nations' secretary-general to Tirana. Here, Javier Perez de Cuellar is seen (left) with Albanian leader Ramiz Alia (Lion photo)

crimes from 34 to 11.

Moreover, spreading "religious propaganda" will no longer be a crime against the State. And the right of an accused to a defence lawyer is to be restored.

Among other indications that Tirana wishes to reopen its windows to the world was the statement by the prime minister, Adil Carcani, that his country wants to take part in the work of the 35th Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. True to its character up to now, the Albanian regime has refused to join in the so-called Helsinki process.

Hoxha's successor, Ramiz Alia, had earlier said that his country wished to restore diplomatic relations with both the United States and the Soviet Union. The former has been reviled as "imperialist," while links with

"revisionist" Moscow were severed as far back as 1961.

Although a perpetual odd man out for most of the time, the Albanian regime is the sole survivor of the type of dictatorship foisted on Eastern Europe by Stalin after the World War II.

But the edifice that was the Soviet bloc has crumbled dramatically over the past year in a wave of popular revolutions throughout the region. The fate of the bloc's main structures reflect this rapid disintegration.

COMECON, the Moscow-led economic grouping, has virtually stopped functioning, while its military counterpart, the Warsaw Pact, is breaking up amid considerable rancour between the USSR and the former satellites.

Vyacheslav Sychev, COMECON's secretary, has admitted that the ten-member organisation

has no future in its present form as it had become ossified, inflexible, out of touch with economic reality — and increasingly irrelevant to world trade.

He told a conference at Ghent, Belgium, that COMECON's share of global trade last year was only nine per cent, and that in high technology "infinitesimal."

Meanwhile, reports from at least two European capitals suggest that relations have become strained due to disputes over the financial arrangements relating to the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The differences are over the prices being paid for buildings and other facilities being vacated by the Russians.

In some instances the departing

troops are said to have smashed up their bases, blown up ammunition and sold weapons to local

civilians — (Lion Features.)

Adventure booming from Himalayas to Amazon but environmentalists worried

By William R. Cormier
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A burgeoning travel industry that takes tourists to remote regions, including Antarctica, the Himalayas and the Galapagos, is drawing fire for leaving man's footprint on some of Earth's most fragile frontiers.

Adventure travel amounts to an estimated \$1.3 billion, or 10 per cent, of the U.S. travel market. And no one seems to know just how big the market will grow.

But one thing is certain: Adventure travel is sparking debate over whether it recruits ambassadors for the Earth, or poses an ecological risk because of the intrusion on little-spoiled regions and civilisations.

"There's clearly a trend toward these type of expeditionary visit to remote places in the world," said Bruce Manheim, an environmentalist seeking tourist controls in Antarctica, one of the favoured destinations.

Travel agents and tour operators are selling the trips to the affluent and well-travelled with this message: "Go now before environmental destruction of Earth's final frontiers is complete."

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Washington-based environmental lobby with affiliates in 38 countries, said adventure tourism has both positive and negative effects.

"On the one hand, it's always useful to have intelligent and outward-looking people to look at places in need of protection and it helps to provide a constituency for (environmental) protection," he said.

"But the scale of these activities is growing at such a pace that it does provide cause for concern

to a lot of environmental groups," he added.

Take the example of the Galapagos, a fragile volcanic chain of islands perched on the Equator in the Pacific, 1,000 kilometres west of South America.

The desolate archipelago is invaded each year by thousands of tourists, and their numbers are growing. Scientists complained last year that some were not

abiding the rules of conservation.

"If they don't slow the pace of indiscriminate tourism, there will

be a debacle and then ... no tourist will want to visit some dead islands," said Gonzalo Ceron, one researcher on the islands.

Tourism is also up in Antarctica. About 800 tourists visited in 1988, nearly 3,000 in 1989, and more than 4,000 are expected in the December-February season.

U.S.-based ocean cruise lines is about to send the largest cruise ship in years to Antarctica, the 460-passenger ocean princess.

"This may be just the tip of the

iceberg," said Manheim, who is seeking strict U.S. guidelines on tourist activities on the frozen continent and coordination of cruise ship visits to wildlife breeding areas.

The U.S. government defends its regulatory programme as sufficient, but conservationists are wary after a January 1989 fuel oil spill from an Argentine supply ship, the Bahia Paraiso, which was carrying 81 tourists.

Meanwhile, travel to the Himalayas has expanded enormously.

Sir Edmund Hillary, who conquered Mount Everest in 1953, complained in March that tourist development was destroying much of the pristine beauty of the Himalayas. "The living standards are increasing, but the beautiful tracks and valleys have been littered," he said.

In Brazil, tourism is leading to encroachment on jungle tribes said Barnes, who added, "These are ancient peoples deserving as deep a respect as flowers and they are truly endangered."

Richard Brill, a U.S. tour operator who first started taking voyagers up the Amazon years ago, said tourists can now go all 5,120 kilometres. He said the trip is actually a good tool for promoting ambassadors for the Amazon.

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Polish workers threaten 90-minute work stoppage

WARSAW (AP) — Striking railroad workers threatened a 90-minute nationwide work stoppage Monday after rejecting a midnight appeal by Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to settle their demands.

"It failed, goodbye," Walesa said as he left the strike headquarters in the city of Slupsk at 3 a.m. Sunday, following a three-hour meeting with strikers who had broken off negotiations with the government Saturday.

Walesa warned that the strikers' actions could lead to civil war and the resignation of Solidarity-backed Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The week-old strike has cut off freight from Poland's Baltic coast and train service across the country's northwest. Rail traffic from Poland's industrial south as well as Czechoslovakia and Hungary has been disrupted, and the army has been drafted to move essential goods.

The strike also has posed a mounting challenge to Poland's post-Communist reformers, who have refused to discuss pay demands they say could scuttle the country's economic "shock" programme, an attempt to move quickly from central planning to a market-based system.

Rail workers said they would not intensify the strike Sunday, during Poland's first fully democratic local elections since before World War II.

OPEZ Chairman Alfred Miodowicz, a former Communist

Party politburo member, began representing the renegade workers after the government refused to open negotiations because the wildcat strike was not being conducted by legal unions.

The government subsequently agreed to talks Saturday. But they broke down after Labour Minister Jacek Kuron reiterated his refusal to discuss wage demands. "I am willing to talk with everybody... about everything except wages," he said.

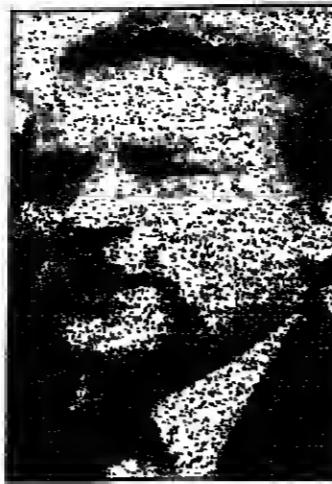
Walesa told the strikers the government cannot concede because "there are others waiting in line for strikes."

The government's concession "would be an indication that if one goes on strike, one gets whatever one wants. The prime minister will resign if protest spreads," Walesa said.

Walesa's ambassadorial work on behalf of the government solidarity helped to create some despite his strained relations with Mazowiecki over the pace of reforms. The strikers accused Walesa of being an agent for the prime minister.

"I am not the government's agent... I am doing this for the democracy that is being built in Poland," he said.

The strikers rejected Walesa's plan to end the strike based on his personal guarantee to work for their demands and press his criticism of the government for "realising the reforms too slowly."



Lech Walesa

He proposed giving the government two strike-free weeks to resolve the grievances, backed by his promise to join a strike if no agreement was reached.

There were signs of disagreement between the strike committee, which has appeared to be seeking accord, and a group of more militant workers, including about 50 who conducted a hunger strike.

Mazowiecki has repeatedly voiced sympathy for the hardships Poles have suffered during the five-month-old bid to create a market economy from the shattered socialist system. Controlling wages and allowing prices to rise to market levels has reduced store shelves but reduced real incomes by an estimated 40 per cent.

Walesa urged the workers to call off the strike. "Please do it for Poland," he said. "We don't want a civil war now, and what's going on now is leading to it."

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Walesa urged the workers to call off the strike. "Please do it for Poland," he said. "We don't want a civil war now, and what's going on now is leading to it."

Walesa has said the strikers

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990 7

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Baseball results for games played on Friday May 25.

T-BALL: All five teams: Data Mini, Aqaba Shipping Co., Jordan Library, Nasheetha/BBB and Jordan Express played their final games.

COACH-PITCH

Armenia 19	Comcent 8
MST 23	Pirelli 15
Epsilon 13	AFC 4
Intercon. 19	ACI 10

KID-PITCH

NECC 16	Marriott 4
Danish Dairy 16	Mr. Chips 2
Westinghouse 19	J.W.M. 11

SOFTBALL

Qaddoumi Agr. 11	Volvo 1
Nadas 10	2nd T.A. 5

BASEBALL STANDINGS

COACH-PITCH

TEAM	WON	LOST
NSI	6	1
Epson	6	1
Armenia	5	2
Intercon.	5	2
ACI	2	5
Pirelli	2	5
Comcent	1	6
AFC	1	6

KID-PITCH

TEAM	WON	LOST
NECC	9	0
Danish D.	7	2
Westinghouse	4	5
J.W.M.	3	6
Mr. Chips	2	7
Marriott	2	7

SOFTBALL

TEAM	WON	LOST
Qaddoumi	5	2
Nadas	4	2
2.T.A.	3	2
Volvo	2	4

T-ball action at home plate.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
• TANIAH HIRSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
you hold:

♦AQJ43 ♦75 ♦A102 ♦763
The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South
1 ♦ 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦
Pass 1 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A—Partner is not running from one spade with a weak hand; he is making a forward-going bid. We suggest you invite game by raising to one no trump.

Q—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQ ♦VAE9 ♦A84 ♦Q83
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A—You are in the slam zone, but you have no idea yet where you want to play the hand. To leave the maximum room for exploration respond one diamond. Partner's next bid will help clarify his holding.

Q—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦Q6 ♦76 ♦A73 ♦AK763
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A—You do not have quite enough to respond at the two-level, which shows about 11 points. Therefore, the only bid available to you is one no trump. Had one of your low clubs been a low spade instead, you would have made that response without a second thought.

Q—As South, vulnerable with 40 on score, you hold:

Lopez earns \$95,000 at Skins

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Nancy Lopez sunk two of only four birdies managed in winds that gusts to 45 MPH (72 KPH) and won \$95,000 Saturday on the front nine of the LPGA's first Skins game.

Lopez won \$45,000 with a downhill 20-foot birdie putt on the sixth hole at the Stonebriar country club course, and added another \$50,000 with a 12-footer on the eight.

Betsy King, the current holder of the U.S. Women's Open and Dina Shore titles, was the only other money-winner in the 30-40 MPH (48-64 KPH) winds.

The final nine holes will be played Monday.

King won \$45,000 with a two-putt for par-5 on the third hole.

Jan Stephenson, trying to make a comeback from a career-threatening finger injury, and veteran Joanne Carner were shutout.

"It definitely hurts your confidence," Stephenson said. "You're afraid you're going to be left out."

"I feel like I'm leaning to play

golf all over again," she said. Stephenson suffered a career-threatening shattered ring finger on her left hand earlier this year when she was robbed in a parking lot outside a professional basketball game in Miami.

"I don't feel very comfortable with my swing," said Stephenson, who had a potential skin stolen from her by the 51-year-old Carner.

On the fourth hole, Stephenson rolled in a 22-footer for birdie-3 and appeared a probable winner.

But Carner made a downhill 20-footer to halve the hole.

Under the format that requires the prize money on each hole to be carried forward if there is not a clear winner, the birdies counted for nothing.

Lopez, a Hall of Fame member and Player of the Decade for the 1980's, scored the only other birdies.

And they counted heavily.

There were two carry-overs, worth a total of \$45,000, when she went to the tee on the par-3

sixth.

King's and Stephenson's tee shots were about six and 10 feet from the cup. Carner missed the green while Lopez put her shot on the upper level of the two-tiered green, about 20 feet from the pin.

Carner made the left-to-right breaking birdie putt and King and Stephenson missed theirs.

"I wasn't very comfortable with my putting. The wind made it tough," King said.

On the par-5, 492-yard eighth, Lopez put her second shot in a greenside bunker. Carner was short in two, and King and Stephenson each reached in two. Carner pitched on but was about 20 feet from the pin in three.

ITF attacks ATP Tour

PARIS (R) — International Tennis Federation (ITF) President Philippe Chatrier said Sunday the newly created ATP Tour had done nothing to improve the game.

"There is too much money involved in tennis... and the creation of the ATP Tour has not changed anything. Players still want more money to play less," he said in an interview with the French weekly *Le Journal Du Dimanche*.

The ATP, the Association of Tennis Professionals, took over last year the organisation of the men's circuit from the ITF.

Chatrier said since the launch of the new tour at the beginning of the season many tournaments had been marred by withdrawals from top players.

"Fake injuries... are the rule," he said.

Chatrier said the ATP had asked tournament organisers to double the prize money and had promised them six top players for every tournament. The organisers must feel they have been fooled, he added.

"I shall do everything within my power to ensure that the game still prevails over money. Otherwise, tennis will become like boxing, with its four federations, its 67 world champions."

Colombia fought their way back into the game and striker Carlos Estrada came close three times in the space of five minutes.

But almost on the stroke of half-time Egypt's Hassan twins combined to give the home side the lead.

Ibrahim Hassan sent over a superb cross which found his brother Hossam unmarked in the penalty area. Higuita appeared to have been header covered but it spun awkwardly after hitting the ground and shot into the net.

In other matches, Romania battled back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with fellow World Cup finalists Belgium in a socer friendly Saturday.

Belgium went ahead in the sixth minute through midfielder Enzo Scifo, back in the side after losing his place under coach Walter Meeuws, who was replaced by veteran Guy Thys in February.

Scifo, who plays for French club Auxerre, dribbled into the penalty area before slipping the ball past diving Romanian keeper Silvio Lung.

Belgian defender Leo Clijsters left Lung helpless again in the 28th minute with a superb lob from just inside the penalty area.

The Belgians, with Scifo dominating the midfield, continued to trouble the Romanians who were playing their final warm-up match before the World Cup.

Egypt, Colombia draw 1-1 in World Cup warm-up

CAIRO — Egypt, recent 3-1 surprise winners over Scotland, were held to a 1-1 draw at home after fellow World Cup finalists Colombia snatched a late equalizer.

Daniel Timotei, who came on for midfielder Gheorghe Hagi — recently signed by Spanish champions Real Madrid — and Florin Radu, injected fire into the Romanian side which pushed forward for the equalizer.

The second goal came in the 56th minute from a penalty by Marius Lacatus after Radu was fouled by Stephan Demol.

Thys, who also made two half-time substitutions, said the result was not important. "If it had been a World Cup match I would have told my players to shut the door after the first half. Now I just tried out new things," he said.

Thys has two more opportunities to fine tune his side against Mexico on June 2 and Poland on June 6.

In Lubljana, Yugoslavia, Emilio Butragueno scored from close range to give World Cup qualifiers Spain a barely deserved 1-0 win over fellow finalists Yugoslavia in a soccer friendly Saturday.

Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic had been troubled only three times during the match when winger Manuel Manolo dummied full back Predrag Spasic and sent over a cross in the 56th minute.

The ball flew past Ivkovic and Real Madrid forward Butragueno easily scored from three metres.

Yugoslavia dominated the first half and created several chances but repeatedly failed with the final touch.

Dragan Stojkovic, who has

signed a \$7 million preliminary contract with French champions Marseille, was at the heart of most of Yugoslavia's threatening attacks.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING

Government Tenders Directorate

Central Tenders announcement

The Contractors who had been Qualified previously for the seventh Education project and local Contractors classified in the field of Buildings first or second grades and willing to participate in the following tenders are requested to purchase tender documents from the Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing starting May,

Gorbachev expects to clash with Bush over NATO and Germany

NEW YORK (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev says he and George Bush have come to trust each other, but are certain to disagree at their upcoming summit over whether a unified Germany should belong to NATO.

While many Americans and Europeans credit the North Atlantic alliance with keeping peace during the cold war, Soviets see it as a symbol of "a dangerous and confrontational past," Gorbachev said in an interview with Time magazine.

"For our people too, NATO is associated with the cold war — but as an organisation designed from the start to be hostile to the Soviet Union... and we will never agree to assign it the leading role in building a new Europe," he said.

Gorbachev gave the interview Tuesday at his office in Moscow. A transcript is to appear in the June 4 edition of the U.S. based weekly news magazine. Copies were released in advance to the media.

Asked by Time whether he expects to disagree with Bush over whether a united Germany should join NATO, Gorbachev said, "I wouldn't say I expect a major disagreement. I'll state for a fact that there will be one."

But "I don't expect the differences to be narrowed," Time quoted Gorbachev as saying of the upcoming talks with Bush in Washington.

Bush and Gorbachev are to begin their summit Thursday and conclude it Sunday with a news conference.

The U.S. and West German governments have insisted that membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a must.

Bush told reporters Saturday he will try to persuade Gorbachev to join the United Nations and to work with a united Germany.

Western officials have remarked

in recent weeks that Moscow has been applying the brakes in the conventional forces talks in Vienna. They assumed it was because of Soviet worries about German unity.

Gorbachev said previously that he wanted progress at those talks, but that those who favoured a united Germany in NATO were disturbing the delicate balance in Europe.

He urged Germans on the path to unification to never forget that their country is pivotal to peace in Europe.

"(Unification) affects the vital interests of many countries in Europe, including the Soviet Union, which sacrificed more than anyone to make sure that war should never again come from Germany's territory," said Gorbachev.

"Now even the most sincere assurances given now, in this headlong rush, can substitute for solid international guarantees that Germany will always pursue peaceful development and peaceful policies toward other countries," he said.

The Kremlin leader's comments mirrored remarks made in Moscow Friday at a press conference with visiting French President Francois Mitterrand.

He said then that Western insistence that a united Germany be a full member of NATO could force Moscow to reconsider its attitude to the entire European detente process.

But Gorbachev also indicated that Moscow would be willing to consider a united Germany with the same status in NATO as France, that is, as a member of the political organisation but not integrated into the military command.

Mutual trust

In the interview, he said he and Bush "have come to trust each other more since our discussions

at Malta," where their previous summit was held last December. He also said "a mutual understanding had emerged that the cold war has become a thing of the past."

But, be warned, "the strength of our relationship is being tested, and it will be tested again in the future."

The wide-ranging interview, held in the Kremlin, also touched on Soviet domestic issues, including the painful transition to a market-based economy and the attempted secession of the Baltic republics.

Some of his comments were given in writing to questions submitted in advance.

Economic reforms

Gorbachev said the Soviet government's plan for economic reform, unveiled last week by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, charts "a radical path" but avoids the shock of an overnight transition from central planning to a free market.

He predicted that one or two years will be needed to set up market mechanisms, including "various laws on taxes, enterprise, antitrust, credit, finance and social protection — the safety net."

But he said the development of a full-fledged market economy would take much longer. He also conceded that both high inflation and unemployment are likely during the transition.

Gorbachev indicated that the future Soviet economic system would have elements of capitalism, including "shareholder companies" and "leasehold properties," but said it might follow the example of France and Scandinavia, where "a significant portion of the economy is publicly held."

He also cast doubt on whether the ultimate goal should be an American-style consumer



Soviet troops kill 6 Armenians in Yerevan

MOSCOW (R) — Six Armenians were shot dead in clashes with Interior Ministry troops at Yerevan railway station early Sunday, the Interior Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the Armenian capital that clashes erupted when a train full of Interior Ministry troops arrived. Local people streamed to the central station to turn them away.

Six people, Armenians from the local population, were shot dead. No troops were killed," he said.

The spokesman said the railway station was still sealed off by troops.

"Tensions are very high here," a journalist at the Armenian Press Agency Armenpress told Reuters from Yerevan. "The troops are terrorising our people in Yerevan and Stepanakert. There was no cause to send troops to Yerevan. Everything was peaceful here," she said.

The said people flooded to the railway station Sunday morning to plead with the troops to go back.

"People asked the soldiers what they were doing here and told them to go back," she added.

Stepanakert is the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave in the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan that has been the focus of bloody clashes over the last two years.

The head of Soviet Interior Ministry Forces Yuri Shatalin described the situation in Armenia Friday as explosive and said he was flying to the Transcaucasian republic to head off bloodshed.

More than 180 people have been killed in clashes over Armenia's demand for political control over Nagorno-Karabakh. But Moscow has allowed Azerbaijan to retain the territory, stirring furious resentment in Armenia against Kremlin authorities as well as Azerbaijan.

The troops were sent to the Armenian capital on the eve of Armenia's National Day — marking the start of the republic's

brief period of independence, won in 1918 and ended by Russian troops two years later.

The Armenpress journalist said tensions were already very high at the station when the troops train arrived.

She said an Armenian train pulled into the station two hours earlier after being attacked on its way through the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakhichevan.

"Windows were smashed. People were taken out of the train injured," she said.

TASS news agency said Friday that a soldier was shot dead at point-blank range in the main bus station of Stepanakert on Thursday night. Other troops were wounded in attacks on army checkpoints. One Armenian militant was also killed.

The nationalist Armenian National Movement accused Soviet troops Friday of driving through streets in Stepanakert and firing at will into crowds.

A spokesman for the movement said the armed forces were angered by Armenia's defiance of Moscow in extending republic-wide elections to Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians there voted in secret in private houses.

The movement said it planned meetings Sunday and Monday to mark the National Day.

The Transcaucasian region, embracing Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, has been the worst violence in five years of Soviet liberal reforms that have unleashed strong nationalist passions.

The area suffered some of the bloodiest purges of the Stalinist era. The Nagorno-Karabakh dispute is one of the biggest challenges facing President Mikhail Gorbachev, who also faces a peaceful rebellion in the northern Baltic republics.

Another Armenpress journalist said seven people had been killed. He said he had been told by army officials the soldiers opened fire because they thought the crowd were militants who wanted to seize their weapons.

Column

One trip to the top 'is enough' for Peter Hillary

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) —

One trip to the top was enough for the son of the first climber of Mount Everest. Peter Hillary says he'll stick to smaller rocks in the future.

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LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Another pair of blue eyes will be hitting the supermarket — Frank Sinatra has joined Paul Newman in the pasta sauce business: Sinatra unveiled his three varieties of — tomato basil with parmesan, Milano style and marinara with mushrooms — during a gathering Monday evening at Melrose Avenue's trendy Morton's Restaurant. Grocery stores in Nevada and northern California have been selling the jars for months. The Sinatra spaghetti sauce hit southern California markets this week.

"Our family has always favoured simply cooked sauces made with the freshest ingredients," Sinatra said. "It's a kick having our sauce in the market and terrific when people tell us how much they like the taste."

Asked what he thought about competing with "Newman's own" pasta sauce, Sinatra says he hopes both companies do well. Sinatra said his company shares its profits with charity.

Rocky V to be the last

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sylvester Stallone says this summer's Rocky V will be the last in the series because there is nothing more to say about the not-so-talkative palooka. "I have no more to say about the character, which is my alter ego, I can't deny that," Stallone said. So what's ahead for Stallone? "Right now," he said, "we're doing something ecological, which is the theme of the 1990s. Then I'd like to do a comedy." The movie's premiere is tentatively set for Nov. 15.

Biographer claims Elvis committed suicide

NEW YORK (AP) — A controversial biographer who stunned Elvis Presley fans in 1981 with his revelations about the drug habits of the rock 'n' roll king now says Presley committed suicide with a huge drug overdose.

"It's the dream gone to nightmare. It's perfect. It's the archetypal rags to riches to rot story," writer Albert Goldman said as the presses were rolling on a Life magazine article in which he makes the claims. The story is getting prominent display in the June issue. "Thirteen years after the death of Elvis Presley, new evidence points to an inescapable conclusion: suicide," reads a copy of the article, which was released in advance to reporters.

The sources said rebels were also seen near the international airport, 50 kilometres southeast of the capital.

These advances are the closest the rebels have moved toward the capital since they began their attack on Dec. 24 from the Ivory Coast in a bid to overthrow Doe.

In Monrovia, about 500 members of the two tribes — the Gio and Mano — that have largely supported the rebels crowded into the local United Nations headquarters Saturday, pleading for protection from attacks by government forces, according to Michael Heyn, chief U.N. representative in Monrovia.

Heyn said talks were under way with the government to assure their safety.

About 300 people had asked for help from the U.S. embassy Friday but were turned away.

The refugees said many of their friends and relatives have been killed or detained.

Yugoslav premier faces row over plans to create new party

YUGOSLAVIA (R) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic ran into a political row Sunday over plans to create a party separate from the ruling Communists to contest a free general election expected later this year.

Markovic told Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in an interview Friday that he and his Communist government intended to form a new party and rally a coalition around his programme of Western-style economic reforms.

He hinted he may run against the League of Communists (LCY), which has ruled Yugoslavia for 45 years, in the country's first free federal election since before World War II.

But Serbian newspapers attacked Markovic's remarks and a government statement last week demanding that the results of free regional elections which

ousted the Communists in the republics of Croatia and Slovenia are respected.

"If we take into account the fact that Ante Markovic and the government came to power thanks to the LCY, this must appear at the very least incomprehensible and shameful," the Serbian newspaper Politika Espress said Sunday.

It suggested that Markovic sought a monopoly on power, although he made clear in Friday's interview that he wanted to remain prime minister only if elected in a free poll.

"With its statement (on the elections in Slovenia and Croatia), the cabinet of Ante Markovic has stabbed in the back the state of law which he so passionately advocates, especially abroad. He has done this by legalising fascism," the daily said.

Markovic's programme of economic reforms, which include tight controls on money supply and closing loss-making factories, has won wide approval in Yugoslavia.

It appeared to be referring to

Superpowers fear India-Pakistan nuclear clash on Kashmir — report

LONDON (R) — The U.S. and Soviet governments fear nuclear war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir after intelligence reports that both countries are readying atomic arsenals, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper said.

The film also showed what analysts believed to be nuclear weapons on alert as part of its preparations for war.

bomb racks being fitted to Pakistani F-16 aircraft.

The newspaper's defence correspondent in Washington said the Soviet Union had informed U.S. authorities that India appeared to be putting nuclear weapons on alert as part of its preparations for war.

governments, the newspaper said spy satellites had photographed armed convoys leaving Pakistani nuclear complexes at Kahuta, near Islamabad, and heading for military bases.

The film also showed what analysts believed to be nuclear weapons on alert as part of its preparations for war.

The army has already made these polls pretty meaningless," one diplomat said.

NLD officials said people still regarded the elections as a chance to show their opinion of the military government.

"People are very eager to have the elections and their sentiment is pushing us on," Kham Maung Swe said.

The 20 million voters are choosing from more than 2,300 candidates from 93 parties or independents for 483 seats. Only three or four parties pose a serious challenge to the government-backed National Unity Party (NUP).

The most charismatic opposition figure, NLD Secretary General Aung San Suu Kyi, was confined to her home in a treelined Rangoon street after 10 months of house arrest. Officials said she would be allowed to cast her vote in a sealed envelope.

"She is the symbol of our democracy. People, especially in the remote areas, look to her to bring democracy to Burma," Kham Maung Swe said.

The NLD's other semi-leader, Tin Oo, who led street demonstrations two years ago, is in jail.

The military State Law and Order Restoration Council was adamant the elections would be fair, although its leader refused to specify the procedure for surrendering power.

"I will transfer power according to the law," said General Saw Maung. "I have already abided by my promises."

Military leaders earlier promised to hand over power to the victors. They said a new constitution must be passed and a stable government formed first.

Three other ministers turned up at polling booths without an armed escort, despite frequent government charges that dissident sabotage teams planned to disrupt the poll.

Woeiyu said the U.S. State

Department is trying to get rebel and government officials to negotiate an end to the fighting.

But the rebels will not open talks unless Doe resigns and surrenders to the rebels for trial on "murder, genocide, human rights abuses" and other alleged crimes, Woeiyu said.

Woeiyu said Doe, who led a coup in 1980 in this West African country founded by former slaves from the U.S., is responsible for the deaths of thousands of his opponents and has plundered the nation's treasury.

A rebel spokesman, meanwhile, denied a claim by the government of President Samuel Doe that government forces had recaptured the strategic port of Buchanan.

"Someone in Monrovia is tooting his horn and continues to lie, to keep up the charade I suppose," said the spokesman, Tom Woeiyu, in a telephone interview late Saturday from his home in East Orange, New Jersey.

The government claimed Thursday to have retaken the port, 142 kilometres southeast of Monrovia, four days after rebels seized it.